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EMS Continued Competency Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach

The EMS Continued Competency Agenda for the Future is a visionary document, written from various perspectives that gives a roadmap of where the EMS profession needs to go to advance how EMS systematically ensures continued competency of EMS clinicians. The EMS Continued Competency stems from the EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach. The EMS Education Agenda for the Future is a vision for the future of EMS education, and a proposal for an improved, structured system, to educate new out-of-hospital emergency clinicians. The EMS Education Agenda is based on the broad concepts for EMS education laid out by the 1996 EMS Agenda for the Future. The EMS Education Agenda for the Future builds on these concepts to create a comprehensive plan for an education system that will result in improved efficiency for the national EMS education process, enhanced consistency in education quality, and ultimately, greater entry-level student competence.

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The EMS Education Agenda calls for a separate visionary document to address continuing education and continued competency of EMS clinicians. The need to address continuing education and continued competency separately is due to the differences between initial education/initial competency verification and continuing education /continued competency verification. The differences between the two are many, namely the educators: program directors, formative instructors, and medical direction oversight for initial education versus training officers, quality assurance officers,

and medical directors for continuing education and continued competency. The educational approach is also different, namely formative education versus lifelong learning, medical update/change education, and assurance of continued competency with knowledge, skills, and abilities. Given the complexities and differences with continuing education and continued competency, the need for a separate Agenda is apparent.

What You Need To Know

The EMS Continued Competency Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach is a consensus visionary document that gives a roadmap for implementing new and better ways of ensuring continued competency of EMS clinicians, beyond the traditional “continuing education” only model.

Key Takeaways

- * The EMS Continued Competency Agenda for the Future addresses the content that was NOT addressed in the EMS Education Agenda for the Future.
- * The Continued Competency Agenda ADDS to the EMS Education Agenda in that it addresses the unique aspect of ensuring continued competency after initial education and verification of initial competency.
- * The EMS Education Agenda specifically calls for a separate document to address the myriad of differences and complexities unique to continuing education and continued competency verification which is what the EMS Continued Competency Agenda will do.

Questions

Q- Is the EMS Continued Competency Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach the same as the NCCP?

A- No, the NCCP is a part of the existing National Registry recertification. The Continued Competency Agenda gives a vision for ensuring continued competency that includes but is not limited to continuing education.

Q- What are some of the differences with the Continued Competency Agenda compared to our current methods of ensuring continued competency (exclusively through continuing education)?

- A-**
- * Giving credit for local credentialing activities
 - * Giving credit for after action reports, hotwashes, and case reviews
 - * Giving credit for station training
 - * Giving credit for equipment orientation
 - * Smaller, more frequent education on high criticality events (i.e., CPR/ACLS with AHA's RQI)
 - * High fidelity simulation (scenarios)
 - * Virtual task trainers and virtual reality simulation
 - * Microlearning (i.e., EBGs on a phone with a short assessment)
 - * Adaptive learning (i.e., ACLS, PALS, CPR that allows a clinician to test-out more quickly rather than sitting through an entire course)
 - * Longitudinal and modular assessments

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Dates To Know

Late 2024

The draft document: “EMS Continued Competency Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach” will be finalized.

By early 2025

The finalized draft will be circulated nationally to get consensus with the document via presentations at state meetings, national conferences, special meetings along with several public comment periods. Ideally, NHTSA will adopt the document, based on assurances they would in 2019. However, given the changes with personnel at NHTSA, they may NOT adopt the document, so alternatively, each (or most) sponsoring organizations can concur with the Agenda and endorse the document as a national consensus document.